

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 AEC-11

AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-03 COME-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03

INT-08 L-03 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 SAM-01 SCI-06 SS-20

STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 DRC-01 ARA-16 EA-11 /217 W

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P R 260917Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 479

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11663

USIA FOR IPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, LE

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIALS ON OIL PRICE RISE

REF: BEIRUT 11649 NOTAL

1. REFTEL DETAILS LOCAL PRESS REACTION TO RECENT STATEMENTS
BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ON OIL PRICE
RISE. LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC-LANGUAGE DAILY AN-NAHAR
HAS CHARACTERIZED THESE AS "AMERICAN DECLARATION OF WAR
AGAINST OIL ARABS," AND REACTION OF OTHER PAPERS IS EVEN
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STRONGER.

2. IN SEPTEMBER 24 VISIT TO AN-NAHAR, INFORMATION OFFICER DISCUSSED LOCAL PRESS PLAY WITH AN-NAHAR PUBLISHER GHASSAN TUENI, USING PRESENTATION SIMILAR TO THAT OF WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN (NESA 186) AND ALSO HIGHLIGHTING POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES OF NON-OIL-PRODUCING ARAB STATES IF OIL PRICES RISE FURTHER.

3. TUENI MADE PREDICTABLE CASE FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY, BUT ALSO NOTED THAT (A) WASHINGTON POST AND MAJOR WIRE SERVICES HAD PLAYED ABOVE STATEMENTS AS STRONG WARNINGS TO ARAB OIL-PRODUCING STATES, (B) HIS PAPER HAD NOT BEEN ONLY ONE TO REACT SHARPLY TO STATEMENTS, AND (C) HIS PAPER COULD NOT IN ANY CASE STRAY TOO FAR FROM MAIN TRENDS OF ARAB REACTION. INFORMATION OFFICER RECOMMENDED FULL TEXTS OF STATEMENTS TO TUENI IN PREFERENCE TO WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSION, TUENI OFFERED TO PRINT ANY NON-POLITICAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF EFFECTS OF OIL PRICE RISE ON LESS-DEVELOPED AND NON-OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES THAT EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE.

5. EMBASSY HAS CANVASSED ITS FILES AND FOUND SEVERAL ITEMS THAT BEAR ON SUBJECT. HOWEVER, MANY ARE CLASSIFIED. THOSE THAT ARE NOT ARE EITHER TOO LONG OR TOO TECHNICAL.

6. EMBASSY THUS REQUESTS IPS/USIA TO PREPARE ORIGINAL PIECE OR PROVIDE PROPERLY CLEARED PUBLISHED PIECE OF ABOUT 2,500 WORDS FOR GENERAL READERSHIP ON ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF HIGHER OIL PRICES ON LESS-DEVELOPED AND NON-OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES FOR PLACEMENT IN AN-NAHAR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE PUBLICATIONS IN BEIRUT AND ELSEWHERE. PIECE SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE EFFECTS ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCING AND DANGERS OF WORLD ECONOMIC DEPRESSION. INR'S L.O. U. EXTERNAL RESEARCH STUDY "OUTLOOK FOR THE RESOURCE-POOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" (INR X-3 OF 8/22/74) MIGHT BE A STARTING POINT.

7. TO STRIKE WHILE IRON IS HOT, REQUEST TELEGRAPHIC
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TRANSMISSION ASAP.
GODLEY

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NNN

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